



Department of Nursing POLICY AND PROCEDURE

POLICY NUMBER: 234
VERSION: 1

SUBJECT: CARDIAC MONITORING

PURPOSE:

1. Continuous physiological monitoring is indicated for critical and unstable patients.
2. Cardiac monitoring is indicated for patients who may have a potential for cardiac arrhythmias, e.g. Dilantin toxicity, electrolyte imbalances.
3. Patients presenting with a complaint of chest pain are to be placed on a cardiac monitor.
4. Cardiac monitoring is required on patients receiving specific chemotherapeutic medications

POLICY: Nursing staff will record an initial cardiac rhythm strip, monitor the rhythm, and record subsequent tracings as indicated by acuity and or presence of any changes.

PROCEDURE:

1. Confirm patient's identity using the two identifiers, name and date of birth.
2. Explain the procedure to the patient.
3. Gather necessary equipment:
 - cardiac monitoring system
 - disposable electrodes
4. Determine lead placement on patient's chest. Confirm placement with illustrated label on the patient cable.
5. Attach electrodes as seen on cardiac monitoring cable. If electrodes are dry, do not use them, locate a fresh electrode.
6. Attach lead wires to electrodes.
7. When all electrodes are placed, confirm there is a tracing on the monitor.
8. Set alarm limits based on initial measurements pulse oximetry, respiratory rate, blood pressure, heart rate, and ensure alarms are on at all times.
9. Nursing staff must write two patient identifiers and the date on all tracings.
10. Nursing staff must affix an initial tracing on the progress note, and any subsequent recordings.

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REFERENCES:

Kowalak, J., (Ed.) (2012). *Lippincott's nursing procedures* (6th ed.). Philadelphia:

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